

OUR LADY OF VICTORY

December 2018 / January 2019

Dear fellow parishioners and friends,

May the days of Advent be special days marked not only by decorating and shopping...but especially decorated with prayers for peace, kindness towards others, attending Sunday and perhaps weekday Mass, reconciliation with God and others.

*The parish Advent Reconciliation Service is scheduled for **Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 p.m.** Many priests will be on hand so that we can repent, confess, and rejoice! (Congratulations to those coming to the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, December 1!)*

*Advent once again this year is brief, with Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent quickly turning into Christmas Eve. The **Christmas Masses** are scheduled for **3:00 p.m. and 5:30 pm. Christmas Eve, and 9:30 a.m. Christmas Day.***

May the Advent season lead us all to a joyful celebration of Christ's birth and our rebirth this Christmas in the love and tender mercy of our God, Jesus-Emmanuel who is with us forever and ever!

*In His love,
Fr. Alan*

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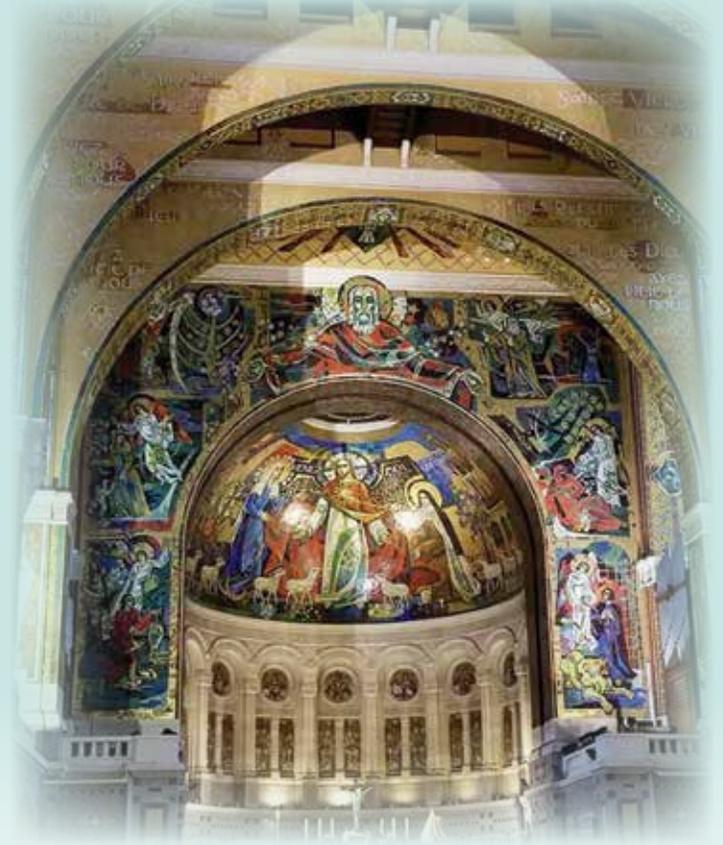
Therese Tour

Questions have often been asked wondering about the huge impact of Therese Martin, saint and doctor of the Catholic Church. The following quote from an article from Our Sunday Visitor poses the question well:

What is the great secret of St. Thérèse of Lisieux? ... French girl joins a cloistered convent at the age of 15, spends her days in prayer, work and silence... journals her spiritual experiences and tragically dies of tuberculosis at 24 years old in 1897. Yet, just 28 years later... Pope Pius XI canonizes her a saint at a Mass attended by tens of thousands, a magnificent basilica is built in her honor in her hometown and she rapidly becomes one of the most popular saints in the entire history of the Catholic Church.

My draw to St. Therese, who is also known as The Little Flower, began at age six, at the time of my First Communion. My parents' gift to me was a statue of St. Therese holding a bouquet of roses. That statue traveled with me through many ages and stages of life. It ended its service crumbling due to my putting it outside my home by a dying rose bush. After Therese's death, many prayers were answered with the sign of roses, and similarly with the "death" of my statue, that bush came back strong and blooming.

Two of my biggest traveling adventures in life were motivated by my interest in St. Therese. One was to Juneau, Alaska, at the Shrine of St. Therese, for a Wilderness Retreat. I wrote in my journal at the time that this sanctuary was both majestic and peaceful; a wonderful tribute to our friend Therese. The shrine outside of Juneau was the first shrine anywhere in her honor. This came about because at that time, the Bishop of Juneau was from France. He personally knew the Martin Family, and set forth in having the shrine constructed right after Therese was canonized in 1925.



Colorful Interior of Basilica of St. Therese in Lisieux.

More recently, I fulfilled a travel goal by being in Lisieux. As marvelous as my Pilgrimage to France was this past August, I would not have chosen to go if the tour did not have a Lisieux day. While it may seem silly, my touring in St. Therese's childhood home (especially being in her bedroom where she had once suffered from delirium until a statue of Mary smiled at her), joining in a simple but delicious pilgrim's lunch at her convent (known as Carmel), and seeing the costume she wore as Joan of Arc for a play she wrote, all felt similar to how a huge Elvis fan might feel



Embossed coffin containing remains of St. Therese's parents, now canonized as saints themselves.



Statue of Therese and her father in the backyard of her childhood home.

at Graceland. Truly Therese, despite her “little way” message (being simple with God and oneself), has rock and roll star status within the Communion of Saints.

Another experience of awe took place in the Crypt of the Basilica of St. Therese, with the opportunity to pray by a beautiful coffin made to hold the remains of both of Therese’s parents, Saints Louis and Zelig Martin. They are the first married couple in the history of the church who were joined together in one process toward canonization (they were officially made saints in 2015). Their family motto was “God served first,” and from their writings, it is clear that their marital love was deep and real. All five of their girls who lived to adulthood became vowed religious sisters. However, the family also knew loss with four children dying at a very young age: Helene, Joseph, Jean-Baptiste, and Melanie-Therese. All nine of their children are embossed on one side of the coffin with both of their parents. Therefore, St. Louis and St. Zelig can serve as great heavenly patrons of understanding for other parents who have experienced pregnancy/infant loss. Zelig died from breast cancer when Therese (the youngest) was only 4 years old, and Louis died after many years of widowhood from an illness that impacted his mental and motor abilities, similar to Alzheimer’s.

If you would like to learn more about St. Therese, the foundational resource is her autobiography titled, “The Story of a Soul.” Much more has been written by and about her. I close this article with a short prayer:

*Dear God,
You open Your Kingdom
to the small and humble.
Help us to walk with confidence
in the footsteps of
Saint Therese, the Little Flower.
In that journey, may we have confidence
in You, like a child who sleeps without fear when
held in loving arms.
And when awake, help us put lots of love into
life’s most ordinary moments.
AMEN.*

By Deb Forstner



Two teens come in with large bouquet of roses and kneel to pray in front of wax figure of St. Therese wearing her actual habit.



Therese's hair was preserved within museum glass.



Meal at Carmel.



PARISH HAPPENINGS

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---|------------|--|
| Dec. 1 & 15 | St. Joseph Men 8:00 a.m.
WinGs 9:00 a.m. | Dec. 21 | School Mass 9:00 a.m.
Mothers' Group |
| Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 | Children's Liturgy of the Word | Dec. 23 | Patrick Murphy Christmas Concert
at OLV Church 4:00 p.m. |
| Dec. 1 | First Reconciliation 10:00 a.m.
NEO Supper at the Rectory | Dec. 24 | OLV School Break until Jan. 2 |
| Dec. 1-2 | First Communion Rite at all Masses | Dec. 24,25 | Parish Office Closed |
| Dec. 4 | Social Concerns 5:30 p.m. | Dec. 31 | New Year's Mass 4:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 4 & 18 | Stephen Ministry 5:30 p.m. | Jan. 6 | Peru Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
after 8:30 and 10:30 Masses |
| Dec. 4, 11, 18 | RCIA 6:00 p.m. | Jan. 7 | Peru Meeting 6:30 p.m. St. Joseph Room |
| Dec. 5 | Faith Formation and Confirmation
Mass at the Veterans' Home 10:30 a.m. | Jan. 8 | RCIA 6:00 p.m. |
| Dec. 6, 13, 20 | St. Anne Quilters 9:30 a.m. | Jan. 9 | Faith Formation K-5, 6-10
No Confirmation Class |
| Dec. 7 | Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Vigil Mass 5:30 p.m. | Jan. 10 | Board of Ed Meeting 5:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 11 | St. Theresa's 1:30 p.m.
KC's 6:00 p.m.
RCIA 6:00 p.m. | Jan. 13 | Young Couples Gathering after 10:30 Mass |
| Dec. 12 | School Mass 9:00 a.m.
FF and Confirmation | Jan. 15 | RCIA 6:00 p.m. |
| Dec. 13 | Catholic Daughters 5:30 p.m. | Jan. 15 | Stephen Ministry 5:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 18 | OLV School Christmas Program
1:30 and 6:00 p.m. | Jan. 16 | Faith Formation K-5, 6-10
No Confirmation Class |
| Dec. 19 | Mass at the Broen Home 10:00 a.m.
Faith Formation and Confirmation | Jan. 20-21 | Duluth Pilgrimage |
| | | Jan. 22 | RCIA 6:00 p.m. |
| | | Jan. 23 | Faith Formation |
| | | Jan. 26 | Chili Fundraiser after
4:30 Mass for Rise Up Conference |
| | | Jan. 30 | Faith Formation |


**IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS
TO SHARE PLEASE EMAIL**
rianeraths@gmail.com




NEO Rectory Supper was a success!

Reflections of an Old Man

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS(ES) PAST

As always around this time of year I'm visited by the Ghost of Christmas Past. Not the one who visited Ebenezer Scrooge to remind him of the loneliness of his youth, his lost love, and his avarice, but the one who reminds me of how beautifully magical and filled with love those Christmases were.

It reminds me of my mom, born with one arm missing just past the elbow—ignoring her handicap as she always did—making, among other things, butterscotch pie, divinity (oh, how delicious that was), and a meal that was, as my dad always said, “Fit for a king, and too good for most.”

I remember my dad trying to find the best side of the fresh tree we had helped him find, stoking the furnace just a little more than usual in honor of the season, and warning us that we weren't likely to get all the gifts we had asked for (I think he'll be forgiven for that little lie).

And speaking of gifts, there actually was a Red Ryder BB gun (with a picture of Red Ryder burned into the stock) that held a whole tube of bb's; a full sized Lionel electric train that ran on a figure 8 track and was controlled by a transformer (dad used to love putting the uncontrollable windup train on the tracks and seeing how long he could maneuver the electric train before it eventually crashed into it). Then there were Lincoln Logs and a windup tractor that we used to push the log building down after it was built; and, of course, Tinker Toys and thigh length boots with a knife pocket (and, believe it or not, a small jack knife) complete with wool socks that came all the way up to the top of the boots and folded over them.

No batteries needed (“wind ‘er up”). No video games to play (no TV). No cell phones to distract (one land line for the whole family). But all the love and joy that any home could hold!

Of course, not all of those wonderful treats and treasures appeared in the same year. *But all of them happened.* Not, however, until after Midnight Mass—a Midnight Mass that actually occurred during the midnight hour. A High Mass with the choir singing the Mass of the Angels (or was it of the Shepherds, I'm not quite sure) sung in Latin with a melody so beautiful I still remember it. And, finally, the long walk home (we couldn't afford a car)—my mom, dad, and younger brother at about one o'clock on a clear, bright, crisp Christmas morning.

My most sincere hope is that your Ghost of Christmas(es) Past, as well as the Ghost of the Present, will be as welcome to you as he has always been to me.

And I know that all of those memories will be on my mind this Christmas, as they are every Christmas, when I once again give special thanks to God for the greatest gift of all.

Lee Krogh





New Members of OLV

ANDREW AND NICOLE WHITE

Andrew and Nicole moved to Fergus Falls from Camp Pendleton, CA. They are a Catholic family and they said they had heard nothing but good things about Our Lady of Victory Church. They have been attending Mass here and like it very much. Andrew and Nicole have two boys, Caden and Clayten. They are a military family with Andrew being in the Marine Corps active duty for the past 9 years. They have gone and lived all over the world and are so happy to be living now in Fergus Falls. They are originally from Kansas, so they are Midwesterners at heart. Welcome to OLV, White family!

COREY AND STACIE QUACKENBUSH



Corey and Stacie both work for Lake Region Healthcare. They have been married for 7 years and have a 2 month old son named Jack. Welcome to OLV!

BRIAN FITZGERALD

Brian Fitzgerald has been attending Mass at Our Lady of Victory for 15 years. He is an English teacher in Battle Lake and enjoys the outdoors and restoring old buildings. Welcome, Brian!

DONNA ARTER

Donna moved to Fergus Falls from Brookings, SD to be closer to her children and grandchildren. She has two daughters and four grandchildren. She grew up in a suburb of Chicago. Welcome, Donna!

CHRIS AND HEATHER LINDGREN



Chris and Heather moved to Fergus Falls from Hastings, Nebraska. Chris is an Emergency Room doctor at Lake Region Healthcare. They have 6 children ranging in age from 18 to 4. Welcome to OLV!

JEFF JAROWZEWSKI

Jeff has worked for K&S Construction for 37 years. He has four children: 2 adult children, Maddie and Alex. Also Emma, a senior at Underwood School and Tess, a freshman at Underwood School. Welcome to OLV, Jeff!

JERRY BURSAW, JR.

Jerry Bursaw, Jr. has a big family. He is loved by all. He knows no strangers. Jerry tries very hard to help and he loves to help. He works through Productive Alternatives at Fabled Farmer. Jerry lives in a group home. He lights up the world with his wonderful smile. Welcome, Jerry!



Welcome

LANCE AND JUDY SATEREN

Lance and Judy Sateren moved to Fergus Falls from Bismarck. They recently retired and moved here to be closer to children and grandchildren. They are North Dakota natives, although they lived in southern Minnesota in the early years of their marriage. Lance and Judy have three daughters who are all married. They also have ten grandchildren, ages 18 months to 15 years. Welcome to OLV, Judy and Lance!



NICOLE (NIKKI) WEISS

Nicole (Nikki) grew up in Fergus Falls and has attended Our Lady of Victory Church all her life. She moved back to Fergus Falls after attending college in Moorhead and is employed at Otter Tail Power Company. Nicki will be married to Shane Hanson on June 1st, 2019. Welcome back, Nikki!



LUCY MCLEMORE

Lucy McLemore just moved to Fergus Falls from Tintah where she was a member of St. Gall's Catholic Church. She has one daughter, Martha. Welcome to Our Lady of Victory, Lucy!



PATRICIA CASEY

Patricia returned to OLV after having lived in Battle Lake and being a member of Our Lady of the Lake. She is a retired operating room RN. Patricia's husband Bill died in 2001. They used to spend their winters in Donna, TX. They have 3 adult sons living within 50 miles of Fergus Falls, 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Patricia is a member of the 8:30 Mass choir. Welcome back, Patricia!



NATE KUNDE

Nate and his wife Leah moved here from Rugby, North Dakota. He works for Otter Tail Power Company and that is what brought them to Fergus Falls. Leah is a stay-at-home mom and she has some online businesses. They have two children: a daughter, Cru (4) and a son, Croix, 9 months. Nate said that he felt very comfortable with the modern and progressive service at OLV. Welcome, Nate and family!

RON AND JULIE ABEL



Ron and Julie recently moved to Fergus Falls from the Bemidji area. They are both retired and have many friends here. They were married 51 years ago and have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Welcome, Ron and Julie!



Central Minnesota REC

“When I was in prison, you visited me” **Matthew 25:36**

From the horrific actions of one, the forgiveness of a family, and the Grace of Jesus Christ, the REC program began in Central Minnesota.

REC stands for Residents Encounter Christ. It is a Paschal Mystery retreat based on the TEC program (Together Encountering Christ).

Central MN REC is a Catholic based retreat open to all denominations, which began in 1992 to bring the TEC experience to those who are incarcerated.

Saturday is what we call Die day. Through a series of talks and activities we gently walk the participants through the process of looking at themselves, dying to their sins and asking Jesus for forgiveness. Sunday is Rise day, and is much more uplifting as we focus on the Resurrection of Jesus and looking ahead at life with Jesus in the lead. Sunday evening is spent reviewing what we have learned and how to apply it going forward in the days ahead. The team follows up a week later with a reunion, touching base to see how the experience affected them. Volunteers and RECites (inmates) are invited to stay in contact by using a centralized mailbox, REC connect. If communication is received from the RECites, volunteers will continue to send letters and encouragement. Volunteers do not share last names or where they live. We want the glory and praise to go only to Jesus and His work through us.

In the first paragraph, there is a hint as to how Central MN REC began. Here is the rest of the story: A family was called to share the Good News of Jesus through an experience that would have broken many as a family, but in the end gave them strength and motivation to help others. Their story is reassurance that God will bring good from devastating circumstances if we follow His lead. Their story starts in the mid 1980's. Mom and Dad were enjoying life and all that had been given to them. He was employed by a company that required travel several times a year. Frequently during the summer months he would invite his wife and two daughters to join him.

This trip took them to Ohio for one of those “mini vacations”. Their 9-year-old daughter ran back out to the



October REC Retreat

car to get something and never returned to the room. That began a series of events that would forever change this family. After a frantic search, it was quickly determined that the daughter had been taken. The police and local priest were called, and the search and prayers began. At one point, a police officer told the family that the chances of the little girl being returned were very slim at best. The family refused to give up and continued to pray for a miracle. Devastated, tired, and helpless, Dad sank to the ground with his head in his hands. He frantically begged God to bring his daughter back safely, and vowed to do whatever God asked of him.

A short time later, there was a knock at the door. Standing outside was a police officer, with their daughter at his side. It appeared that at the same time Dad had been pleading with God to bring his daughter back safely, the kidnapper had been trying to decide what to do with the little girl that he had kidnapped and raped. Thankfully his choice was to let her go, and he dropped her off several blocks from where he had picked her up earlier that day. As you can imagine, the family was ecstatic. They were thankful for prayers answered, but angry and feeling true hatred for the man who violated their little girl.

Months passed, but the anger, fear, and hurt did not. The kidnapper was still at large and at one point, thoughts of returning to Ohio during the upcoming deer hunting season to hunt him down had crossed their minds. Thankfully, they didn't follow through with those thoughts, and eventually the man was found, convicted, and sent to prison.

The following summer, attempting to put their lives back to normal, the family spent weekends at their cabin. During one of the neighborhood cookouts, a neighbor

asked the girl's father if he would consider working a retreat with him at the Sioux Falls prison. This again sparked a feeling of anger, and Dad told his neighbor that he would never serve in that capacity for "those kinds of people". The neighbor didn't give up and over the summer continued to ask. It was after the third time that Dad remembered the promise he had made to God that day.

He did eventually volunteer, not for one weekend, but for several weekends in Sioux Falls and felt a call to start a similar program within Central Minnesota. In the fall of 1992, the first Central MN REC was held at the Sauk Center Correctional Facility, which housed 15-18-year-old boys. With the approval of the Diocese of St. Cloud, the weekends continued twice a year until the facility closed in 1999. The weekends had such an impact on the participants and volunteers that they contacted the MN Board of Corrections asking them to allow the program to be expanded to the jails and prisons as well.

Today Central Minnesota REC holds 11 retreats each year – two at the Prison in St. Cloud; two at each of the county jails in Fergus Falls, Alexandria, St. Cloud and Little Falls; and one yearly retreat is held in Foley. In December 2018 Milaca County Jail will host their first REC with plans to hold two each year, increasing the number of weekends held each year to 13. A typical team will consist of at least 30 volunteers and one priest. Each facility has a facility coordinator that works with jail administration to schedule a weekend, assign team duties, arrange sleeping accommodations for the team, and other weekend details. Our Lady of Victory has shown overwhelming support and hospitality over the past several years by allowing the Otter Tail County team to gather, celebrate Mass, and sleep. The Catholic Daughters generously provide homemade bars for the weekend. (They are really good bakers!)

Since 1992, approximately 8500 RECites have participated in 323 weekends at eight different correctional

facilities. According to our database, over 1500 volunteers have worked as part of the team during that time. Our volunteer base is mainly from the southern part of the Diocese, but we have several who travel 3-5 hours to participate in a weekend. All team members are required to have participated in a Paschal Mystery retreat (TEC, Koinonia or Cursillo) and be approved by the facility before serving on the team. On any given weekend, at least two former RECites return as part of the team to give back what they received on their REC weekend. Our policy requires that they have been out of jail for at least two years, free from using drugs, and are actively practicing their Christian faith.

In the past two years, the REC program has branched off into two new REC entities: Northeast MN REC, which hold retreats in Aiken and Crow Wing counties, and a newly formed Greater Twin Cities REC, which offers retreats at Lino Lakes Prison and Stillwater Prison. The REC board is also supporting two yearly KLAS retreats which are held at St. Mary's in St. Cloud for family and friends of individuals who have been incarcerated or for individuals who are interested in getting involved as a team member but have not yet experienced a retreat of their own. The schedules can be found on the REC website www.cm-rec.org

We have had many RECites say that the retreat was a turning point in their life, and that through the weekend they were able to encounter what the love of Christ feels like. Many shared that by knowing people on the outside who cared enough to give up a weekend and voluntarily enter jail for the sole purpose of sharing the love of Jesus with them was humbling. Witnessing the power of forgiveness and God's love is why the volunteers keep coming back and working multiple weekends.

Volunteers know that not all RECites will make it on the outside. Knowing it is hard for them to find the

Continued on page 10.



Otter Tail County Jail

SAVE THE DATES!

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Fergus Falls, MN invites you to our Parish Mission on March 10-13th, 2019. We are conducting a four night parish mission featuring Mark Price from Mark Price Ministries.

Mark has been conducting missions and retreats since 1975 and presenting Biblical portrayals since 1984. The portrayals of Biblical characters adds a personal dimension that arouses greater interest in scripture and brings to life the message of Christ and the church in a very unique way. Who better to encourage your parishioners to a closer walk and understanding of Jesus than those who knew Him best? Four nights of presentations, four different portrayals. All are welcome!



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Mark Price's Biblical Portrayals - Since 1983.

These are Bible-based theatrical presentations that many say is more thought-provoking than any they have ever seen. Mark Price brings key figures of history to life. They will speak to you about their lives and experiences with Jesus. Mark hopes that his Portrayals will encourage people to get to know those who were closest to Jesus, to dig deeper into the Scriptures and to grow in their faith.

Sunday: SAINT JOSEPH - In His Own Words. Meet Saint Joseph who next to Mary may have been the one who knew Jesus the best. Saint Joseph the earthly father of Jesus will encourage all to become the Holy Family God wants us to be.

Monday: JUDAS ISCARIOT - In His Own Words. Tonight you will meet arguably the most hated man in history. Judas Iscariot reminds us that as he failed, so can we. There is a part of him in each and every one of us.

Tuesday: SIMON PETER - In His Own Words. Join us, and meet one man's vision of the person, the personality, the humor, the life of THE APOSTLE, Simon Peter. Simon Peter reminds all that we represent the future, that we are a Holy nation, the true church of Christ, chosen by God to proclaim the glory of His Son.

Wednesday: SAINT PAUL - In His Own Words. Paul the Apostle is responsible for one half of the New Testament. A persecutor of the followers of Jesus who becomes one of His most ardent evangelists. Paul was born in Tarsus, Cilicia. He was a Jew, a Pharisee who hated and persecuted the followers of Jesus. And then a conversion. Meet Paul tonight in the final presentation of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church Parish Mission.

All are welcome for any or all evening presentations. We ask that you please RSVP by registering here on our eventbrite site. If you can't make it and registered, no problem. If you didn't register and can come last minute, please come. This is a great time to invite someone back to church, to renew yourself, or to evangelize to others and bring them with you to the parish mission. You don't want to miss this!

OUR LADY OF VICTORY N.E. OFFICE PRESENTS: **Our Lady of Victory Duluth Pilgrimage** **January 20-21, 2019**

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- St. Scholastica Monastery, Tour and Lunch
- St. Scholastica College Art Tour
- Canal Park
- St. Michaels Church, 5 pm Mass
- Catherdral of Our Lady of the Rosary, Tour
- Karpeles Manuscript, Library Museum

**Itinerary is subject to change without notice*

TOUR INCLUDES:

- Deluxe motor coach transportation,
- 1 night hotel, 1 hot breakfast, 1 lunch and 1 dinner,
- (Day 2 lunch on own), tours & donations.

Depart 8:00 am, Sunday, January 20,
from Our Lady of Victory Church, Fergus Falls
Return Monday, January 21, 6:00 pm

Contact Mamas to reserve your seat!

Church of OUR LADY OF VICTORY

207 North Vine Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

MASSES

Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday 8:30 a.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m.
Saturday 3:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Victory School (K-6th grade)
Learning Ladder Preschool (3-5 year olds, full and half day)
218/736-6661
www.ffolvschool.org

Happy



Holidays

www.ffolvchurch.org

Weekend Mass: *Saturday*, 4:30 p.m. Vigil | *Sunday*, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Daily Mass: *Tuesday*, 12:05 p.m. | *Thursday & Friday*, 9:00 a.m.

Confession: *Thursday*, 8:30 a.m. | *Friday*, 8:30 a.m. | *Saturday*, 3:30 p.m.